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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS

Afghanistan, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia,
Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines,
Samoa, Spain and Venezuela: revised draft resolution

International arms transfers

The General Assembly,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve underlying conflicts, to diminish tensions and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Recognizing that the international transfer and production of conventional arms, including advanced weapons, delivery systems and military technology, has in recent decades acquired a dimension and qualitative characteristics that can give rise to serious and urgent concerns,

Greatly concerned by the illicit arms trade, a most disturbing and dangerous phenomenon, because of its destabilizing and destructive effects, particularly for the internal situation of affected States and the violation of human rights,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly ^{1/} it urged major arms recipient and supplier States to consult on the limitation of all types of international transfers of conventional arms,

^{1/} Resolution S-10/2, para. 85.

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Realizing that arms obtained through the illicit arms trade are most likely to be used for violent purposes, and that even small arms when so obtained, directly or indirectly, by terrorist groups, drug traffickers or underground organizations can pose a danger to regional and international security, and certainly to the security and political stability of the countries affected,

Considering that the illicit arms trade, representing a distinctly unique phenomenon, by its clandestine nature defies transparency and could not be dealt with by an arms transfers register,

Recalling its resolution 43/75 I of 7 December 1988,

Welcoming the study of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above resolution and prepared with the assistance of governmental experts, on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms as well as the problem of the illicit arms trade,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the above-mentioned study;
2. Calls upon all States to give high priority to eradicating the illicit trade in all kinds of weapons and military equipment, a most disturbing and dangerous phenomenon often associated with terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, mercenary and other destabilizing activities, and to take urgent action towards this end, as recommended in the study by the Secretary-General;
3. Urges Member States to exercise effective control over their weapons and military equipment, their arms imports and exports to prevent them from getting into the hands of parties engaged in the illicit arms trade;
4. Also urges Member States to ensure that they have in place an adequate body of laws and administrative machinery for regulating and monitoring effectively their transfer of arms, to strengthen or adopt strict measures for their enforcement, and to cooperate at the international, regional and subregional levels to harmonize, where appropriate, relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures as well as their enforcement measures, with the goal of eradicating the illicit arms trade as stated in the recommendation of the study;
5. Invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information on their national legislation and/or regulations on arms exports, imports and procurement, and administrative procedures, as regards both authorization of arms transfers and prevention of illicit arms trade;

6. Calls upon affected States to provide the Secretary-General, in accordance with national judicial procedures, information regarding arms and military equipment, seized by authorities, destined for the use of terrorists, drug traffickers, organized crime and for mercenary and other destabilizing activities, when this would assist the eradication of illicit arms trade;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to make available for consultation by Member States the information referred to in paragraph 5, and to publish the information provided in connection with paragraph 6 of the present resolution;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General:

To assist, upon request and within available resources, in holding meetings and seminars at the national, regional and international levels, as pertinent, with a view to:

(a) Promoting the concept of transparency as a confidence-building measure;

(b) Increasing the awareness of the destructive and destabilizing effects of the illicit traffic in arms and to exploring ways and means for its eradication;

(c) Promoting the development of internationally harmonized laws and administrative procedures relating to official arms procurement and arms transfer policies;

(d) Promoting regional and international efforts to eradicate the illicit traffic in arms and providing advisory assistance to Member States, when so requested, on measures for enforcement of relevant rules and administrative procedures as recommended in the study, with a view to, inter alia, facilitating cooperation between Member States in the training of their customs and other appropriate officials;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

10. Requests the Disarmament Commission, at its organizational session in 1992, to consider including the issue of international arms transfers in the agenda of its substantive session in 1993;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "International arms transfers".
